

**ABSTRACT**

**WA-II-157**

**Early 19th Century**

**Middlekauff-Gower House**

**Sharpsburg Vicinity**

**private**

**This house is an example of an early log dwelling which has been maintained with relatively few alterations. It appears to retain old siding and a considerable amount of its interior fabric.**

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Middlekauff-Gower House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Taylor's Landing

CITY, TOWN

☒ VICINITY OF Sharpsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sylvester J. Gower

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route # 1

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21782

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

Liber #: 226

Folio #: 053

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

WA-II-157

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED $\leq 50\%$	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is located on the south side of Taylor's Landing Road at the C & O Canal and the Potomac River at Mondell or Taylor's Landing, northwest of Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a hillside and faces west overlooking the river and canal. The dwelling is a one and a half story, five bay wooden building of log construction sheathed with random width weatherboarding. Under the main roof span for the entire length of the house is a deep overhanging porch. A one and a half story, four bay ell extends to the rear. It, too, appears to be of log construction but shows evidence of being an addition to the main section.

Windows at the front elevation are paired on either side of the main entrance. Those to its north are set more closely together than the windows south of the door. The window frames are quite wide and finished with quarter round molded trim. At the main story level, they hold nine over six pane double hung sashes. The front windows have pairs of louvered shutters. A late 19th or early 20th century photograph of the house shows that the main story window which is presently in the north end wall was not there when the photograph was made. A pair of dormer windows extends from the west slope of the roof. They have changed somewhat from their appearance when the earlier photograph was taken. The dormers now have plain gable roofs while at one time they had stepped parapet gables. Six over six pane sashes are used in these windows. Modern double window gabled dormers have been installed in the south and east roof slopes at the rear of the house.

The main entrance is located in the central bay of the front elevation. Its lintel is several inches higher than those of the windows. A transom is present above a six panel door. In the north elevation of the wing is an entrance which has a small shed roofed porch. In the old photograph this porch had a flatter roof with a massive Greek Revival entablature and was supported by heavy square pillars. Other entrances are located in the south elevation of the ell.

The roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles while wood shingles appear to have been the roof covering in the old photograph. The present owners have installed a brick exterior chimney against the north end wall. Another exterior chimney of stone and brick is located against the south end wall. Other chimneys of brick are present inside the end wall of the ell and at its interior.

The inside of the house displays combined late 18th or early 19th century and mid 19th century features, such as early doors with six raised panels and ovolo trim in the front section and doors with six low relief panels with 19th century carpenter type locks in the back part. These locks are inscribed J. R. Walker and have V. R. insignia on the keepers.

Behind the house is a stone smoke house with a steeply pitched hipped roof.

According to the old photographs, the area along the edge of the canal which is now part of Taylor's Landing Road paralleling the canal was apparently used as a garden. A pump was located in the corner of the lot where Taylor's Landing Road ended at the canal.

The property contains 2.5 acres, part of "Resurvey on Sprigg's Delight" and "Long Sought."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an example of an early log dwelling which has been maintained with relatively few alterations. It appears to retain old siding and a considerable amount of its interior fabric. An important resource with this house was a group of old photographs, apparently dating from the late 19th or early 20th century.

Deeds for this house were traced back to 1837 when Daniel Middlekauff sold to Thomas Harris 16 acres of land at \$120 per acre, a relatively high price. (TT/71). The property has changed hands in numerous transactions since that date. See the following deeds: IN6/526, IN6/527, IN12/352, IN14/138, WMCKK2/236, 77/254, 119/333, 119/334, 121/669, 134/46, 158/611, 163/302, 181/543. Possibly the Henry S. Eavey family who owned the property between 1878 and 1904 were responsible for the photographs

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES****Washington County Land Records.**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

DATE

**February 1978**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

**County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street**

TELEPHONE

**791-3065**

CITY OR TOWN

**Hagerstown**

STATE

**Maryland 21740**

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# SHEPHERDSTOWN QUADRANGLE

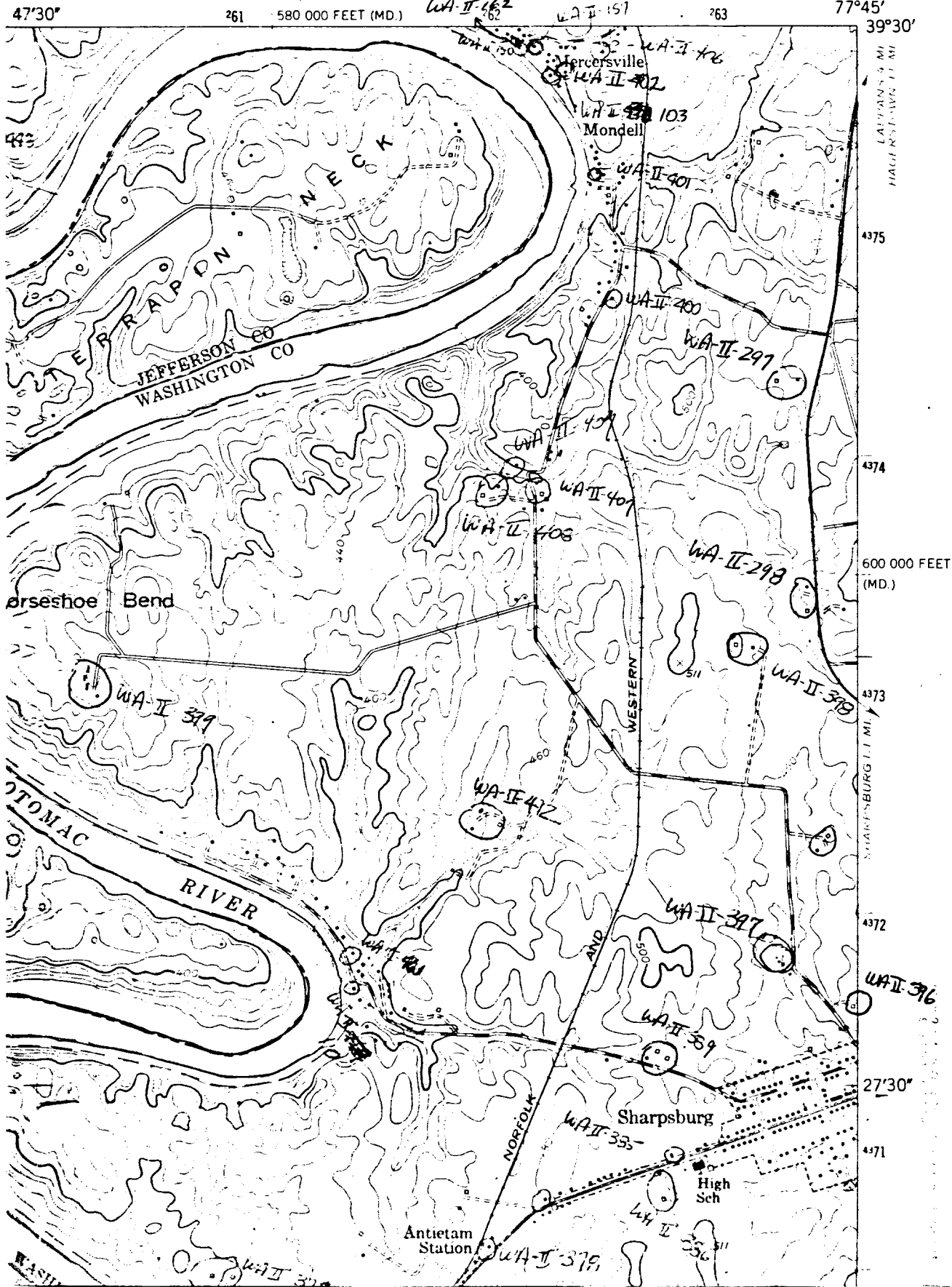
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE 1/4 MARTINSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5463 11 SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

WA-II-157





6-11-1977

N 10

11/11/1977

**Middlekauff-Gower House**

**Taylor's Landing  
Sharpsburg Vicinity**

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





**Middlekauff-Gower House**

**Taylor's Landing**      *WA-II-157*  
**Sharpsbrug Vicinity**

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WA-11-157

20

11/10/15

**Middlekauff-Gower House**

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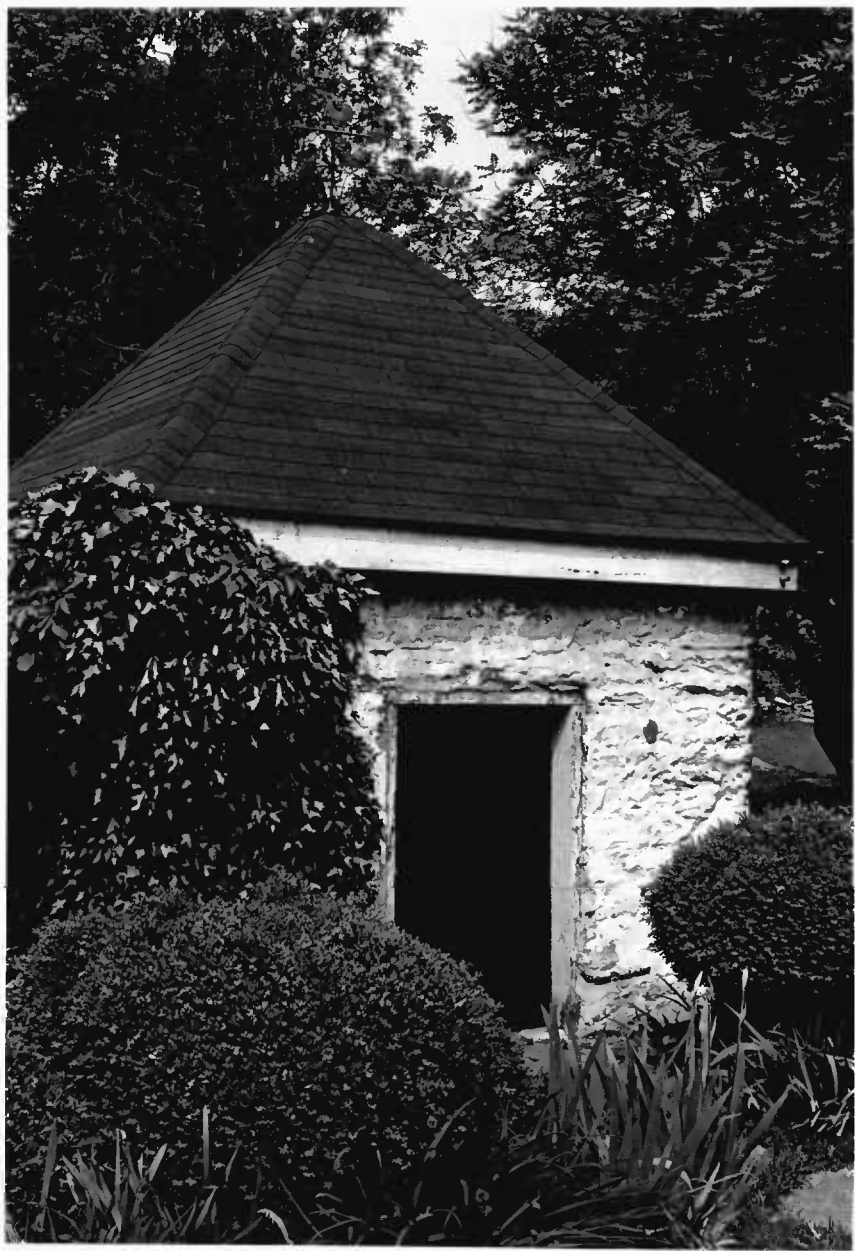


*(047527)*  
*51*  
*11/10/96*

**Middlekauff-Gower House**

**Taylor's Landing  
Sharpsburg Vicinity**

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



LOH-11-157  
1971  
May 1971

**Middlekauff-Gower House**

**Taylor's Landing  
Sharpsburg Vicinity**

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





**Middlekauff-Gower House**

**Taylor's Landing**  
**Sharpsburg Vicinity**

WA-II-157

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



1

**Middlekauff-Gower House**

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*WA-II-157*

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WA-II-157

PAULA STONER DICKEY

SHARPSBURG, WASHINGTON CO.

HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY